

REMARKS

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-3, 5 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,420,839 to Chiang. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Rejection of claim 1

In the Action, the Examiner asserts that Chiang discloses a “second balancing circuit (Rm)” for “adjusting the second lamp current in accordance with the matching signal”. However, Chiang describes Rm as a “sampling resistor” (column 3, line 52), and does nowhere disclose or suggest that sampling resistor Rm may be used for “adjusting the second lamp current in accordance with the matching signal” as recited in claim 1.

Further, the Examiner asserts that Chiang discloses a comparator (22) to “generate the matching signal used to control the first and the second balancing circuit”. As seen above, Rm cannot be deemed to disclose or suggest a second balancing circuit. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Rm is not coupled to the output of comparator 22 of Chiang (see FIG. 3 of Chiang), and can thus not be controlled by comparator 22. Therefore, comparator 22 cannot be deemed to disclose a comparator “used to control the first and the second balancing circuit” as recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the above, claim 1 is patentable over Chiang.

Rejection of claim 19

Applicants respectfully submit that the above arguments with regard to claim 1 also apply to show that Chiang does neither disclose or suggest “a plurality of balancing circuits [...] for adjusting the lamp currents” as recited in claim 19, nor a comparator “used to control the balancing circuits” as recited in claim 19, and that therefore claim 19 is patentable over Chiang.

Rejection of claims 2-3 and 5

Claims 2, 3 and 5 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1. Applicants submit that claims 2, 3 and 5 are patentable over Chiang at least in view of their dependency.

Allowed subject matter

Claims 4, 6-10, 20-24 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 4, 6-10 depend indirectly on claim 1 and claims 10-24 depend directly or indirectly on claim 19. Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw this objection in view of the fact that, as discussed above, claim 1 and 19 are patentable over Chiang.

* * *

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

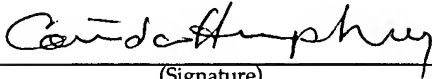
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(Date of Transmission)

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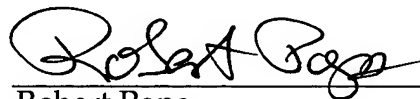


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1-14-05

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Respectfully submitted,



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